

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 6th March Hymns P 80v1-8, Kilmarnock, 541 T 58, 585 t 416. Read: Genesis 37:15-
Text Genesis 37:18

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Conspired against (2)

When Joseph by the will of his father came seeking his brethren and their wellbeing they seen him coming in the distance, at that moment notice **verse 18** *they conspired against him...*"

The phrase *conspired against* means **to plot against, deceitful, to be crafty**. Joseph's own brethren plotted against Him, they dealt deceitfully with him and were crafty towards him.

They were antagonistic toward his very **person**, they envied him, jealous towards him and despised him in every way.

Joseph kept himself pure from evil reports, he is set apart chosen and favoured by the father. He was clothed in a garment a robe of many colours, Joseph has honour, power, praise, and pre-eminence, all that his brother desired.

They hated Joseph's dreams, its message and meaning, and so rebelled against him, refused and rejected the messenger and message the dreamer and dream because their deeds were evil, they afflicted him.

Joseph's brethren set themselves against Joseph, they declared war on him, yet we read in the story there was preservation, protection, provision and pardon with Joseph.

God so sovereignly ordered the events in the world, agriculturally, naturally, as a famine spread through the land.

The people needed supplies.

Where was the supply to be found in Joseph, where did those in great need have to go, to Joseph.

His storehouse were filled with all they needed.

What a picture we have of Christ, the Son of God, sent by the will of God the Father, to for the spiritual wellbeing of sinners. He identified with them by becoming man, human flesh yet without sin.

Having come into the world to save sinners, Christ the chosen was the despised and rejected one, disowned by His own. Sinners by their sin have rebelled against God have refused and reject the messenger and message of the everlasting covenant of grace.

Yet all the sinner needs is found in Christ.

Likewise, God so ordered our events, making us to see our misery and great need so that we will come to Christ, who is all that we need.

His riches unsearchable, His giving unending.

Believer we once stood where Joseph's brethren did, it was my rebellion and sin that lead to Christ affliction.

We despised and rejected Christ as God's messenger, and message, yet in mercy and grace He called us and brought us to a point to see ourselves as great sinners but so see Christ as a great Saviour.

With Christ there is preservation, provision, protection and pardon.

All that we need Christian to live godly and all you need sinner for salvation is found Christ our heavenly Joseph.

Having consider Firstly the Antagonism before their conspiriarcy against Joseph notice

II SECOND, THE AIM OF THEIR CONSPIRACY AGAINST JOSEPH

The aim of their conspiracy is recorded at the end of **Verse 18** ***and when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against Him to slay him.***

The word **slay** means **to kill, die**. Their aim was to kill their brother. They plotted to kill the one who came seeking their spiritual welfare.

When Joseph's brethren see him afar of, they could view the coat of many colours, they identified him, and they remembered his dreams.

Joseph's very presence, his position stirred them up and troubled them, to move deceitfully against him.

Just as King Herod was stirred up, troubled by the news of the New Born and rightful King Jesus Christ, Herod deceitfully aimed to destroy him.

When Saul of Tarsus who became known as the Apostle Paul, was saved by the grace of God, we read in **Acts 9:20** ***“straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.***

Paul made much of **Redemption accomplished in the person and work of Jesus Christ, and then he expounded Redemption Applied on basis of Jesus Christ.**

Paul's Gospel preaching caused a stir, for the very reason ***proving that this is very Christ.***

Having proved to the Jews who Christ is in His glorious person, **Acts 9:23** confirms their response ***“the Jews took***

counsel to kill him.” verse 24 “they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

However, their wicked plans were frustrated by God. He intervened, and Paul’s life was spared ***verse 25 “Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.***

Once more we must consider Christ, even before He commenced His public ministry, we learn as a young child in ***Matthew 2:13*** Joseph was commanded ***“take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. verse 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet...”***

Then in His public ministry ***John 5:16 the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.***

their aim was to do away with Christ, destroy Him, though they could not kill him because in the plan of God his time of death was not at hand, He must die the shameful death of the cross, in Gods’ appointed time.

While persecution comes in many forms such as verbal by speech, mental by mind games, but also physical on many levels, including death, which many have suffered, yet over all is the sovereign power of God in life and death.

There is One who is sovereign over the affairs and aims of every enemy plot. The enemies of the gospel, can only do what God permits, allows them to do, they cannot go outside

the boundary of God, otherwise God would have lost control and not be sovereign.

Learn that because the wicked one and his legions, make aims every day to attack to ruin and hinder the people of God, in our witness for God, shift us a wheat that us shake us so that to doubt God, question God, dwell in defeat, live a double minded life, and remain downcast.

The Lord protected Joseph from death that day, He worked through Ruben verse 21 ***“And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.”***

Joseph was spared from dangers seen and unseen.

Joseph didn't know their aim. Such thoughts never crossed his mind.

But God knew and because God had not yet fulfilled His purposes through Joseph to the nation, He kept him alive. God had a work for Joseph to do.

Believer we have a sovereign protector, We are keep every day, believer from dangers known and unknown, when out and about, at work, school, in all places, your Heavenly father watches over you.

He spares you because God has a work to do through you and by you for His name's sake, like Joseph would God use our lives to restore sinners, Londoners back to God, and see Him as Saviour.

III THIRD, THE ARRANGEMENT OF THEIR CONSPIRACY AGAINST JOSEPH

Having the aim to slay Joseph, notice the arrangement in **verse 20** “**cast him into some pit, and we will say some evil beast hath devoured him...**”

The brethren came together and arranged their plan.

At the very outset their plan was full of deception and lies.

They had planned to slay Joseph, and then throw him into a pit, but make up with this story that “...**some evil beast hath devoured him...**”.

This was the same conclusion their father came to when the brethren return with Joseph's coat, **verse 33** “**it is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him;**

They are making this arrangement up on the spot. Give your best ideas, I know “**cast him into some pit, and we will say some evil beast hath devoured him...**” that will keep us clear no one will find out, Dad will not suspect anything.

Remember the arrangement of King Saul to slay David the chosen King of God and anointed. Saul envied David, he was displeased because David received more praise than Saul.

Saul thirsted for power, position, praise and preeminence, my kingdom, my victory, my praise.

But above all **Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.**

Due to sin Saul' lost out of with God. God spoke to Saul and the message was your reign has come to an end, and now David was anointed and chosen by God to be the next king of Israel. He would take over the throne from Saul.

Each time Saul looked upon David, he did so with hatred and envy which drove Saul to arrange a plan to kill David.

But Saul was careful not to kill David with his own hands, rather he would arrange events to place David in the line of attack and leave him open to the Philistines in battle to slay.

Saul began to reward David giving gifts, and honour to lift him up, Ming games, not draw any suspicion,

(1Samuel 18:13 he “*made him his captain over a thousand.*” Verse 17 Saul gave his oldest daughter Merab to David for marriage gave her to another, but later He said in verse 17 “*only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles.*” The Saul gave her other daughter Michal to David to be his wife, why v21 “*Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.*” But she actually fell in love with David and it displeased Saul. V22 Saul starts to play mind games.)

Verse 25 “*.... But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.*”

The whole time Saul was arranging that David would die in battle, but off course the Lord delivered David out of His trouble. Saul was filled with hatred and envy we read in verse 29 “*Saul became David's enemy continually.*”

In a sense Joseph and David were targeted, set up and being betrayed, doesn't that remind us of Christ and the arrangement of Judas with the Christ's enemies.

In the garden Here is the arrangement after a price settled, Matthew 26: 48-49 ***Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.⁴⁹ And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. Verse 50*** “*...Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.*”

from Christ birth He was targeted yeah from the very first prophecy concerning Him coming in Gen 3:15.

Therefore from the time of Salvation, believer the wicked one target you, makes arrangement against you for you betrayal, downfall and failure, but praise the Lord for one who is over the arrangements of men, and makes arrangement for your Spiritual and eternal Blessings, Benefits, Delight and Success, He will lead you.

IV FOURTH, THE ANTICIPATION IN THEIR CONSPIRACY AGAINST JOSEPH

The last words of **verse 20** “...*and we shall see what will become of his dreams.*”

The anticipation, hope or expectancy in their aim and argument was that Joseph’s words would come to nothing.

Their thinking is, get rid of Joseph and his dreams, his words all that he has proclaimed will be over.

Why because the very sight and mention of Joseph kept reminding them of his dream and the message proclaimed. The brethren thought of their own future and it didn’t include Joseph’s dreams.

Yet Joseph’s dreams were a message from God of a future day, what will happen here after.

It pointed out that Joseph’s brethren would stand before Him in great need, as their only provider, but also, as their Exalted ruler. And so, they think to remove Joseph is to remove what is to take place in a future day.

You can see they believed their scheme would work, this was the answer, this was the way to end all this talk about bowing down to Joseph and He will rule over them.

Believer that is why Men and woman reject the gospel when you share it with them. That is why seek to silence you, to stop you, they expect to hear nothing more.

That is why preachers in the open air are taken away by the police, the people complain.

they expect because the preachers are removed so all that has been said about sin, eternal judgment will also be removed just as Joseph's brethren said ***and we shall see what will become of his dreams.*** So men and woman say we shall see what shall become of his message.

By stopping the messenger and message they anticipate, expect to remove all that the message means, and then there will be no accountability.

But God was clear, Joseph was clear and his brethren understood full well when in **verse 8** ***“...his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us?”***

And when in **verse 19** ***“they say one to another, Behold this dreamer cometh.*** The message of Joseph's exaltation reminded them again of that future day.

Joseph's brethren became their own message and standard, they thought they could change the future, and stop God's plan.

They acted like those later in the days of the Judges, where **Judges 21:25** states ***“...every man did that which was right in his own eyes.***

But here is the point God means what He says and says what He means, therefore, He appointed the day when they

would stand before Joseph in his exaltation and acknowledge him.

Believer your very presence and proclamation of Christ's life, death, resurrection remind that Christ is coming soon and all will bow before Him, whether they reject and refuse, **Rom 2:12, 16**, "**...as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law...in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men.**"

All will be judged not according to their dreams, law, or standard, but God's law which is His own standard of judgment, He will judge righteously.

Believers stand before Him not for ruination but rest, not for hell but heaven, not for punishment but paradise, not for wailing but worship.

Therefore, sinner Humble yourselves, and submit to Him now in salvation before He Humbles you and sentences to condemnation.